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ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

JANUARY, 1843.

CHANGE OF THE ADVOCATE.

The cause of peace, for more than a quarter of a century since its commencement, has never, in England or America, been without its periodical; but its form, size and frequency have varied in each country. The organ of the London Peace Society, with the exception of a single year when it was monthly, has always been a quarterly; while the friends of peace in America have at different times issued theirs once a month, once in two months, and once in three.

Each of these methods has its advantages; but, while an elaborate and dignified quarterly may suit the taste of highly cultivated minds already interested in the subject, a periodical more frequent, and full of short, pithy articles, would secure far more attention even from good men. We have tried to combine as much as possible of the quarterly with the monthly; but we think that a form still more popular will better subserve our purpose of spreading the leaven of our principles through the mass of the people. We wish to reach every family; and in an age like this, we can gain and keep the popular mind to such a subject only by frequent and interesting appeals.

For this purpose, we have resolved on a change of the Advocate. We shall not only issue it once a month, but fill it with shorter articles, and a much larger proportion of facts, statistics and anecdotes, likely to interest all classes of minds both old and young. We design to make it a popular work, one which all right-minded persons will like to read.

DESIGN OF THE ADVOCATE.—It will be exclusively devoted to peace, and its associated or auxiliary topics. It will from month to month chronicle the leading events transpiring in the intercourse of nations, and contain intelligence and discussions concerning the progress of the cause through the world. Though restricted within these limits, it will present a vast variety of subjects interesting to all classes, and permanently valuable. We design to make it, in the lapse of years, a store-house of facts and statistics, anecdotes, arguments and appeals, relative to the origin, nature and results of war;—its waste of property, and havoc of human life and happiness;—its glaring inconsistency with our religion of peace;—its baleful influence on agriculture, manufactures, commerce, civilization, science, literature, liberty, education, morality, religion, and all the enterprises of benevolence and reform;—the substitutes for war, and the possibility, the means and the duty of its entire and perpetual abolition.

CIRCULATION.—We shall need a much wider circulation than we now have. We intend to publish from the first, ten thousand copies of each number; and we hope there will ere-long be a demand for thrice as many. We put the *Advocate* so low, when taken for general or gratuitous distribution, that our friends can easily send it into every church-going family. We trust they will in many places; and we would earnestly urge them in every place to make speedy and strenuous efforts for the purpose.

How to do it.—It can easily be done. Let the minister first preach on the subject of peace, or bring it in some other way before his people, urge the importance of general information upon it, and propose a collection or subscription for the purpose of having a copy of the *Advocate*, as a monthly tract on peace, go into every family in the congregation or town. He can ordinarily do the work best, or most easily see that it is done; but, if he lacks the requisite zeal or leisure, let any friend of peace take hold of the plan in earnest, and it will soon be done. The cost of supplying a whole congregation or town is so trifling, that any resolute, determined spirit could secure the object at once.

TAKING THE ADVOCATE.—EXCUSES ANSWERED.

Say not, 'there is little need of information on the subject.' We speak advisedly when we say, there is hardly any subject, of such general importance, so imperfectly understood by the mass even of intelligent men. People read and hear more than ten times as much about temperance, and missions, and anti-slavery, and other topics of benevolence and reform.

Nor tell us, 'you find enough on the subject in other publications.' They generally contain not a tenth, if a fiftieth part as much as they do on the subject of missions; and yet almost every missionary society is wisely trying to fill the land with tracts, periodicals and monthly sheets. Nor is this all; for every faithful pastor communicates from the pulpit, and at the Monthly Concert, nearly as much intelligence as the entire contents of a work like ours. The *Advocate*, after all we can get into other publications, will be found altogether indispensable.

Say not, 'you are a friend of peace already, and need no further light or impulse on the subject.' No hearty, zealous friend of the cause would say this; and the very plea shows how much you need to be informed and impressed. But, if you really are a full believer in all the principles of peace, do you need to read and reflect upon them no more? Remember how you reason and act in other cases. Having become a firm Whig or Democrat, would you for that reason discard all political news on your side? Because you believe every doctrine of the gospel, would you cease to read the Bible, or to hear its truths preached?

Nor tell us, 'the Bible contains enough on the subject of peace.' True, and so it does on temperance and missions, on repentance and faith, on every topic of religious truth and duty; but would you for such a reason discard all preaching, and all publications on those subjects? There is even more need of light from the pulpit and the press on peace, since the instructions of the Bible on this subject are so generally overlooked or misconstrued.